

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00192 250953Z

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ACTION AF-18

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FOR AF/E WENDELL COOTE PASS WALSH FROM SCOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, ASCH

SUBJECT: PROJECT HOPE

REF: ASMARA 181

1. WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD PASS PROMPTLY FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM MARC SCOTT TO DR. WILLIAM WALSH OF PROJECT HOPE:

QUOTE AMONG POSSIBLE OPTIONS ON SCHOOLING DISCUSSED
DURING MEETING MARCH 22 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN
AGENCIES/CONTRACTORS/CONSULATE WORKING IN ASMARA WAS ONE
IN WHICH HOPE MIGHT PROVIDE SCHOOLING FOR ALL AMERICAN
DEPENDENTS AND INTERESTED ETHIOPIANS. UNDER SUCH AN
ARRANGEMENTS HOPE WOULD STAFF AND OPERATE ELEMENTARY-
HIGH SCHOOL USING CALVERT AND UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND MATERIALS BUT WOULD PROVIDE
CERTIFIED TEACHERS WHO WOULD PRESENT COURSES IN TYPICAL CLASSROOM
ENVIRONMENT. ALL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF OPERATING SCHOOL
WOULD BE COVERED BY TUITION AND NON-HOPE SHARE WOULD BE
GUARANTEED IN WRITING BY RESPECTIVE AGENCIES TO INSURE THAT
HOPE WOULD NOT END UP IN UNACCEPTABLE POSITION OF SPENDING
PROJECT FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITY NOT COVERED
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00192 250953Z

UNDER TERMS OF OUR CHARTER.

APPRECIATE FACT THAT ABOVE WOULD BE NEW ACTIVITY FOR PROJECT HOPE AND GOES BEYOND SCOPE OF ANY PAST PROGRAM. AM FURTHERMORE AWARE THAT THIS WOULD ADD SOME ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON HOPE HEADQUARTERS AND HOPE/ETHIOPIA BUT FEEL THIS WOULD BE MINIMAL IF WE HIRED SOMEONE LIKE ED COMSTOCK WHO CAN DO ALL NECESSARY RECRUITING, SET UP SCHOOL AND MANAGE IT WITH BUT MINIMAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER PROGRAM OFFICES.

ADVANTAGES OF ABOVE PROPOSAL TO PROJECT HOPE WOULD BE:

(A) BETTER EDUCATION FOR OUR DEPENDENTS IN THAT THERE WOULD BE MORE TEACHERS IN SPECIALTY AREAS THAN WE COULD POSSIBLY AFFORD IF WE WERE RUNNING A SCHOOL JUST FOR HOPE DEPENDENTS. COMBINED WITH THIS, OF COURSE, IS THE FACT THAT THE STUDENTS WOULD BE TAUGHT IN A REAL CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT RATHER THAN HAVING WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO LITTLE MORE THAN A SUPERVISED STUDY HALL UNDER A SYSTEM WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO TEACHERS.

(B) WHATEVER THE ULTIMATE DECISION OF HOPE/WASHINGTON ON WHETHER TO PAY FOR OR SUBSIDIZE OUR DEPENDENT EDUCATION OR TO HAVE PARENTS ASSUME THE FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, THE COST OF EDUCATION WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. THIS WOULD BE DUE TO THE FACT THERE WOULD BE MORE STUDENTS TO

SHARE IN THE ESSENTIAL BASE COSTS AS WELL AS THE FACT OUR DEPENDENTS WOULD PAY A LOWER TUITION THAN OTHER STUDENTS IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR SETTING UP AND OPERATING THE SCHOOL.

(C) A AND B ABOVE WOULD MAKE IT MUCH EASIER FOR PROJECT HOPE TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN THE TYPE OF HIGH-CALIBRE, MID-CAREER PERSONNEL THAT WE WANT. AS YOU KNOW, MOST OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE FAMILIES AND THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN IS ONE OF THE CRITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THEIR MAKING A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO COME WITH HOPE.

DISADVANTAGES TO PROJECT HOPE :

(A) THE OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGE HERE IS EVEN THOUGH ALL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ASMARA 00192 250953Z

OUR COSTS (BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT) WOULD BE DEFRAIDED BY TUITION THERE ARE UNQUESTIONABLY MORE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS IN RUNNING A SCHOOL FOR APPROXIMATELY 90 STUDENTS THAN THERE ARE IN OPERATING ONE FOR 25. AGAIN, HOWEVER, I FEEL THAT THIS CAN BE MINIMIZED BY HIRING ED COMSTOCK WHO HAS BOTH OVERSEAS AND U.S. TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND WHO CAN QUICKLY PUT HIS HANDS ON SIMILARLY WELL-QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED TEACHERS MOST OF WHOM HE HAS ALREADY TALKED WITH.

MY RECOMMENDATION, THEREFORE, IS THAT WE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS SYSTEM AND THAT BARRING ANY LEGAL/ CORPORATION PROBLEMS THAT WE ADOPT THIS PROPOSAL AS BEING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE HOPE/ETHIOPIA PROGRAM.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE ABOVE I WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH FURTHER DETAILS VIS-A-VIS COST, NUMBERS AND AGES OF STUDENTS, ETC. IT WOULD ALSO BE ADVISABLE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE PROPOSAL TO CONTACT MR. COMSTOCK AT TELEPHONE 931-9434. SHOULD A DECISION BE MADE NOT TO OPERATE LARGE SCHOOL SUCH AS PROPOSED, REQUEST THAT COMSTOCK BE GIVEN TOP CONSIDERATION FOR TEACHUDG JHSIGNMENT IN SMALLER HOPE SCHOOL.

WHATEVER YOUR DECISION, AN EARLY RESPONSE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS TIME GROWING VERY SHORT. ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE HERE, OUR THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER. UNQTE.

PERRY

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